

H. A. HOUSE.  
METHOD OF KNITTING STOCKINGS, &c.

No. 112,346.

Patented Mar. 7, 1871.

Fig. 1

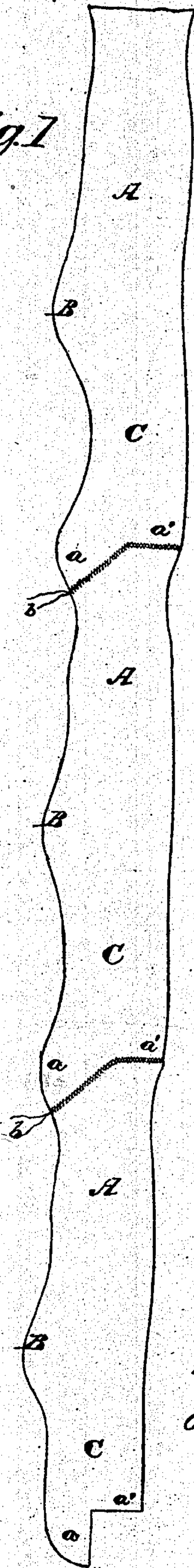


Fig. 2

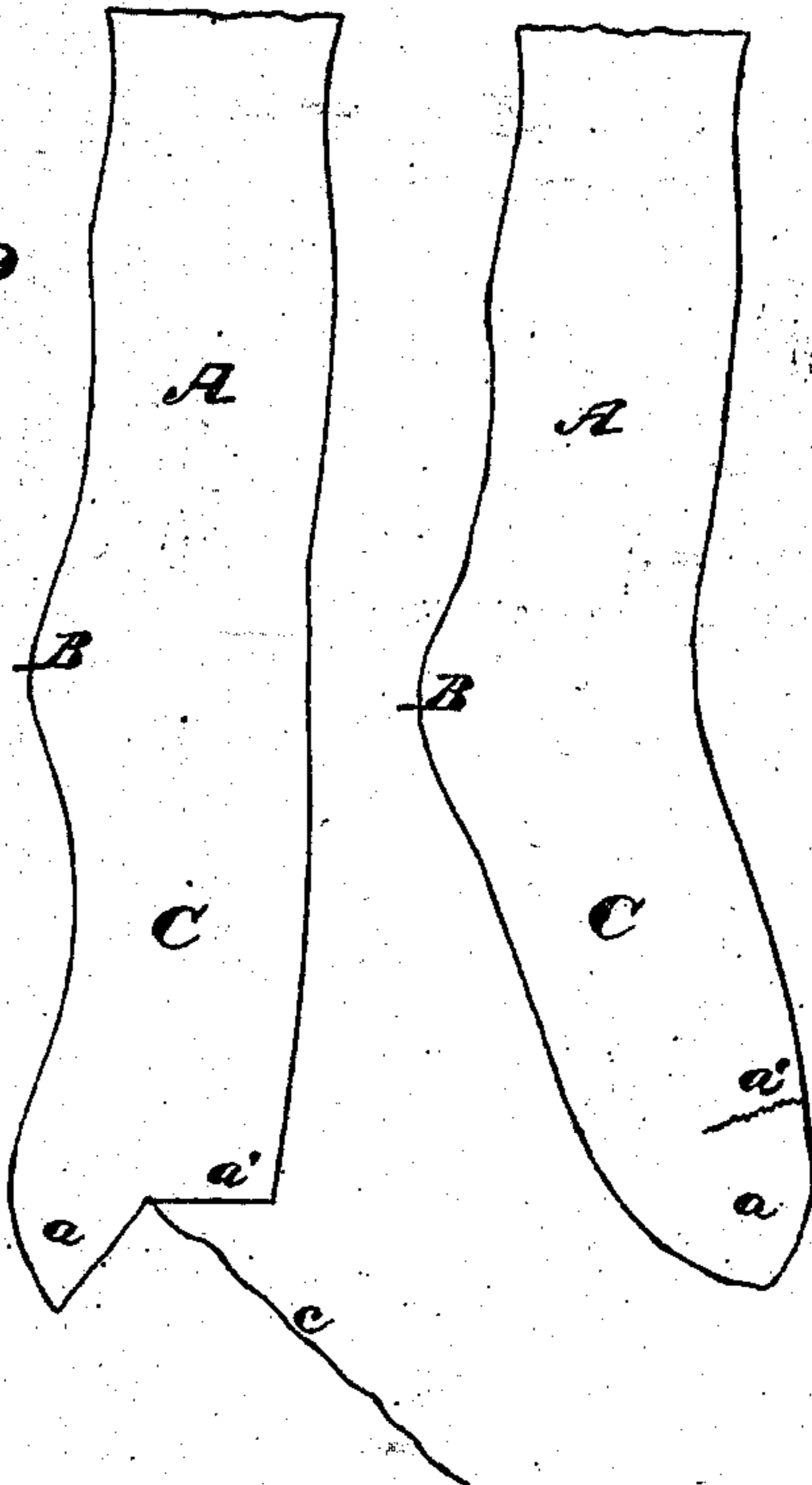
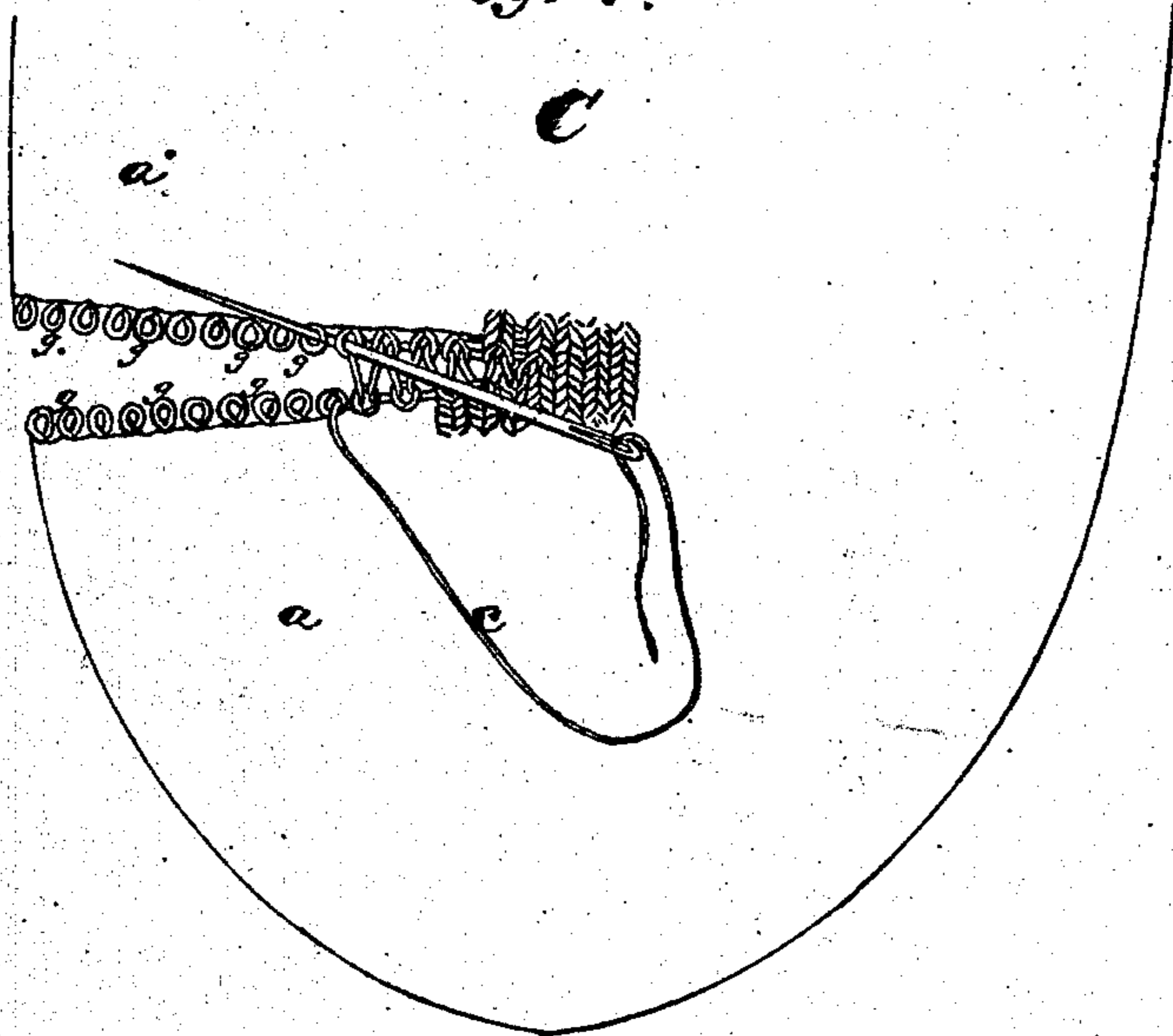


Fig. 4.



Witnesses.  
R. J. Campbell  
J. W. Campbell

Inventor  
Henry A. House  
by his Atty.  
Mason Fenwick Lawrence

# United States Patent Office.

HENRY A. HOUSE, OF BRIDGEPORT, CONNECTICUT.

Letters Patent No. 112,346, dated March 7, 1871.

## IMPROVEMENT IN THE METHODS OF KNITTING STOCKINGS, &c.

The Schedule referred to in these Letters Patent and making part of the same.

*To all whom it may concern:*

Be it known that I, HENRY A. HOUSE, of Bridgeport, in the county of Fairfield and State of Connecticut, have invented a new and improved Mode of Making Stockings; and I do hereby declare that the following is a full, clear, and exact description thereof, reference being had to the accompanying drawing making part of this specification, in which—

Figure 1 is a view representing the stockings as they are delivered from the knitting-machine.

Figure 2 shows a stocking ready to have the toe closed;

Figure 3 shows a stocking complete; and

Figure 4 shows the manner of closing the toe.

Similar letters of reference indicate corresponding parts in the several figures.

The object of this invention is to knit stockings continuously or in a connected manner, and thereby avoid the loss of time and labor hitherto experienced in setting up the work for each stocking which is knit.

The following is a description of my invention:

Any of the well-known knitting-machines which will produce seamless tubular stockings may be employed in carrying out my invention; but I prefer to use the machine for which Letters Patent of the United States were granted to me on the 12th day of April, 1870.

The work is set up on the machine, and the knitting performed in the usual manner to form the leg A, the heel B, the foot C, and the rounded toe *a*.

Now, instead of detaching the stocking from the machine after the last course is knit, I break the yarn leading from the spool, and knit a strong thread, *b*, into the work, thus leaving one course of loops upon the needles composed of the said thread *b*.

After knitting in the thread *b* the selvedge for another stocking is formed, preferably as described in my patent of May 22, 1870, this thread *b* forming the set-up for commencing another stocking.

Having thus knit in one course of the strong thread *b* (the ends of which are left free) and formed a selvedge, the work of knitting another stocking is proceeded with as before.

In this way one stocking after another can be knit in a connected manner, and the work of knitting is greatly facilitated.

The stockings are separated by drawing out the

threads *b*, after which the yarn *c*, at the toe of each stocking, is raveled back to the angle between *a* and *a'*, (see fig. 2,) to be used for closing the toe.

The toe is closed in the following manner:

The yarn *c* is passed through the eye of a common darning-needle, and with this yarn the free loops *g g* are taken up by passing the needle through two loops at a time on each edge of the material.

By taking up each loop twice, as illustrated in fig. 4, the toe is closed in such manner that the line of junction will appear precisely like the knit-work.

I am aware of B. F. Shaw's patent of April 23, for knitting a continuous piece with projecting portions, which form the heels and toes of stockings.

I also am aware of the English patent No. 725, of 1865, wherein one or more portions of a single stocking may be separated from fellow portions by withdrawing a thread which was knit into the stocking during its manufacture.

I also am aware of the patent of Peatfield, dated July 13, 1858, for a glove, which has its fingers and hand portions knit separately and afterward united together by hand.

My invention differs from all of those referred to mainly in that it enables the manufacturer to knit a series of stockings in one continuous piece, which, when separated, will have a selvedge at the top, and thus the operation of knitting may be carried on without delay of setting up the work, notwithstanding at intervals portions of the knit-work are separated below the point of knitting.

Having described my invention,

What I claim as new, and desire to secure by Letters Patent, is—

1. The method herein described of producing two or more stockings or socks in continuous lengths, when the two or more are made separable by a draw-thread introduced, during the process of knitting, between the ends of one and the selvedged top of the next, all as specified.

2. As a new manufacture, the continuous knit-work for forming two or more complete stockings, made divisible by means of a draw-thread, *b*, and which, when divided, will leave each stocking with a selvedged top, as herein set forth.

Witnesses:

GEORGE C. BISHOP,

J. H. VINTON.

HENRY A. HOUSE.